In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2 and 10-13 without prejudice, amend Claims 1 and 5-9, and add new Claims 14-18 as indicated below. The status of all claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A recording medium with a laminated structure, the medium comprising:

a substrate;

a recording layer provided with perpendicular magnetic anisotropy for recording of information;

a first foundation layer located between the substrate and the recording layer;

an initial layer which is greater in surface tension than the first foundation layer and held in contact with a recoding-layer-side surface of the first foundation layer; ~~and~~

a functional layer held in contact with a recoding-layer-side surface of the initial layer.;

a second foundation layer held in contact with a recoding-layer-side surface of the functional layer; and

a roughness controlling layer which is greater in surface tension than the second foundation layer and interposed between the second foundation layer and the recording layer;

wherein the second foundation layer is spaced from the first foundation layer at least by as much as a combined thickness of the initial layer and the functional layer.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the functional layer comprises one of a heat sink layer, a non-magnetic layer, a recording magnetic field reducing layer and a soft magnetic layer.

4. (Original) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the functional layer has a thickness of no less than 20nm.

5. (Currently Amended) The recording medium according to ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein the second foundation layer is smaller in surface tension than the functional layer.

6. (Currently Amended) The recording medium according to ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein the ~~protrusion/valley~~roughness controlling layer includes a recording-layer-side surface having a surface roughness Ra of 0.5-0.85nm.

7. (Currently Amended) The recording medium according to ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein the ~~protrusion/valley~~roughness controlling layer has a recording-

layer-side surface formed with protrusions and valleys, and wherein an average diameter of the protrusions is 5-20nm.

8. (Currently Amended) The recording medium according to ~~claim 2~~claim 1, wherein the ~~protrusion/valley~~roughness controlling layer has a recording-layer-side surface formed with protrusions and valleys, the protrusions and valleys having a maximum height difference of 3-10nm.

9. (Currently Amended) The recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the recording medium is ~~based on~~ a magneto-optical recording medium having~~technique and comprises~~ a multi-layer structure~~ including the recording layer for realizing MSR, MAMMOS or DWDD~~.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (New) A recording medium with a laminated structure, the medium comprising:

a substrate;

a recording layer provided with perpendicular magnetic anisotropy for recording of information;

a first foundation layer located between the substrate and the recording layer, the first foundation layer being made of SiN;

an initial layer which is greater in surface tension than the first foundation layer and held in contact with a recoding-layer-side surface of the first foundation layer, the initial layer being made of Pt; and

a functional layer held in contact with a recoding-layer-side surface of the initial layer.

15. (New) The recording medium according to claim 14, further comprising a second foundation layer held in contact with a recoding-layer-side surface of the functional layer.

16. (New) The recording medium according to claim 15, further comprising a roughness controlling layer which is greater in surface tension than the second foundation layer and interposed between the second foundation layer and the recording layer.

17. (New) The recording medium according to claim 16, wherein the second foundation layer is spaced from the first foundation layer at least by as much as a combined thickness of the initial layer and the functional layer.

18. (New) The recording medium according to claim 14, wherein the functional layer comprises a heat sink layer.